



FIGURE SKATING CLUB
GO FIGURE
*SJSU figure skating club placed seventh
in national competition*
SPORTS 3

COMIC
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DIMENTIAN
OPINION 2



REVENGE THERAPY
Where's the beef?
Not on my plate.

OPINION 2

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SPARTAN DAILY

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003

CONFLICT IN IRAQ

Kurds sweep into N. Iraq, Bush addresses Iraqis

Associated Press

Opposition forces crumbled in northern Iraq on Thursday as U.S. and Kurdish troops seized oil-rich Kirkuk without a fight and held a second city within their grasp. U.S. commanders said signs pointed to a last stand by Iraqis in Saddam Hussein's birthplace of Tikrit.

Despite the gains, one Marine was killed and 22 injured in a seven-hour battle in the Iraqi capital. Four more were wounded in a suicide bombing. "Baghdad's still an ugly place," said Maj. Gen. Gene Renuart.

Widespread looting persisted 24 hours after the city celebrated the regime's fall. Striking anew at the regime leadership,

coalition warplanes dropped six satellite-guided bombs on a building where Saddam's half brother, Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, a close adviser, was believed to be.

Al-Tikriti once headed the Iraqi intelligence service, and the building in Ar Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, had served as an intelligence service opera-

tions site, said Marine Maj. Brad Bartelt, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command in the Persian Gulf. It was not known immediately whether al-Tikriti was hit.

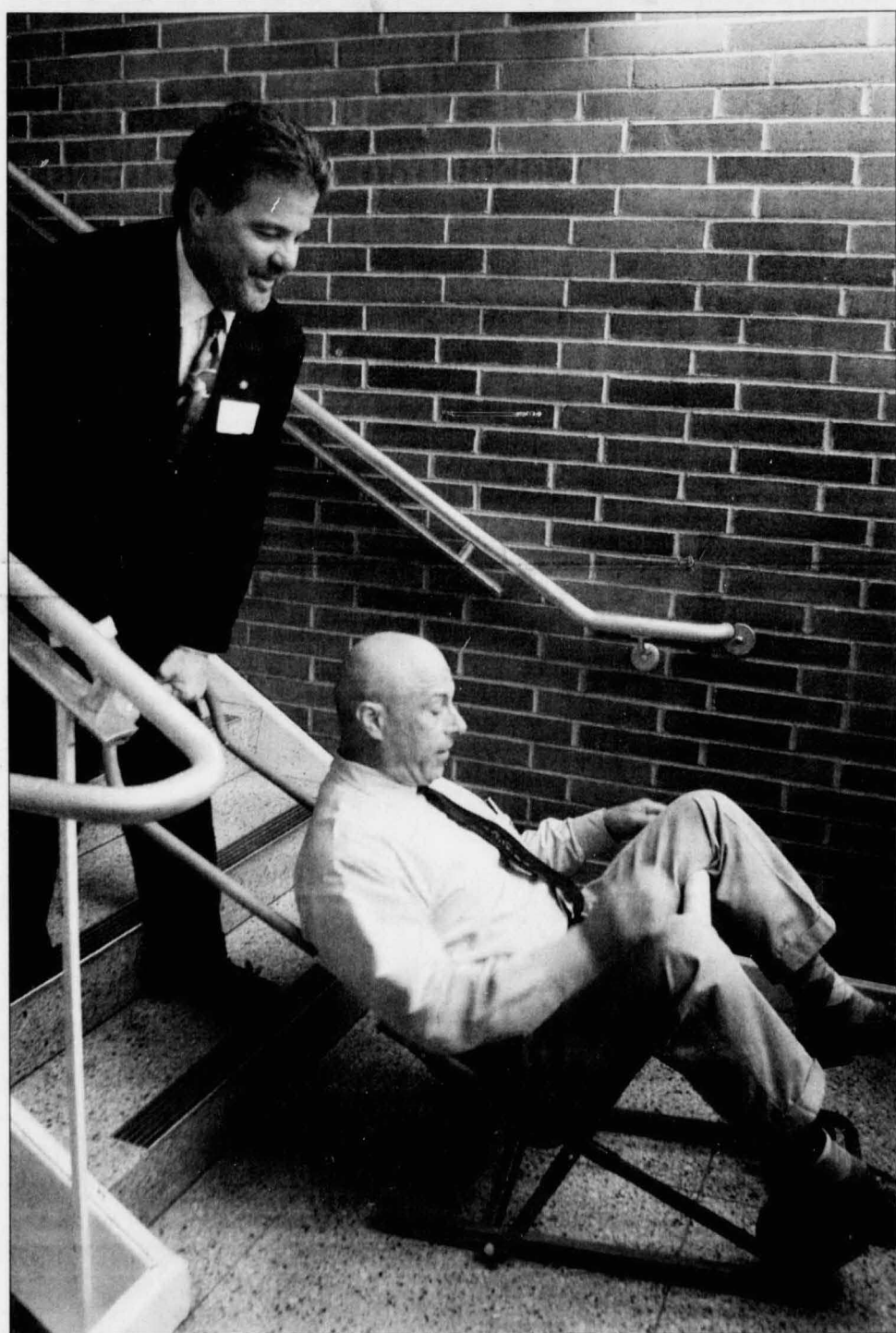
Increasingly, the U.S. military focus was away from the capital. Kurdish troops set off celebrations in Kirkuk when they moved in, and there were

hopes that Iraqis would surrender in Mosul, another northern city, on Friday.

Nearly 100 miles to the north of Baghdad, U.S. commanders said Tikrit was the likely site of a last stand by Iraqi forces — if there is to be one. Iraqi defenders were believed to have moved there from other parts of the country. U.S. commandos were in the region, and

warplanes were attacking. U.S.-led fighters and bombers also hit Iraqi positions near the border with Syria, where special forces were trying to prevent regime loyalists from slipping out of Iraq and to keep foreign fighters from entering.

See IRAQ, page 4



Addressing campus safety was purpose of annual tour

By Kimberly Lapham
Daily Staff Writer

San Jose State University President Robert Caret rolled University Police Department Lt. William Coker down a third floor flight of stairs to demonstrate an emergency chair for the disabled during San Jose State University's annual Accessibility Tour on Thursday.

After Coker laboriously folded himself into one of the blue and yellow emergency chairs in an Engineering building stairwell, Caret took hold of the handlebars and pushed the chair steadily down the steps.

"Nothing to it," Caret laughed. The chair demonstration was the disaster simulation segment of the tour, which also included a discussion about disabled campus members and emergency procedures for helping them.

Able-bodied and disabled students and faculty members alike shared and learned about the topic.

"It's important for everyone, able bodied and disabled, to understand how an evacuation takes place, what tools are available for this and how to think in a different way," said Gordon Burton, chair of the occupational therapy

department.

The tour is about being more aware of what people with disabilities go through, said Lalaine Lagsob, a student intern to the president. Its focus is on evacuation procedures and helping people who are disabled.

"We don't credit the disabled community with what they've given us," Burton said. "It's important to realize."

He mentioned how features such as curb cutouts at corners, ramps and voice technology for computers have become every day conveniences for able-bodied people as well. They've helped bring about a barrier-free environment that helps every person, he said.

"I think it's an important part of any community to understand the challenges they face," Caret said of the disabled.

He also said it's important for the university to get updated and to learn its progress on the matter as well as learn the deficiencies. There are many issues on campus and it's good to spotlight one of them, he said.

Awareness was the key of the tour, which has been held at SJSU since 1998. Knowledge is so important, said Burton, who presented much of the discussion.



The number of disabled students on campus isn't concrete because some students remain unidentified, said Cindy Marota, interim director of the Disability Resource Center.

According to a national survey, however, about 6 percent of postsecondary educational campus students are disabled, she said.

Everyone is just a collapsed ceiling or skiing accident away from losing the use of his or her legs, Burton said.

"At any moment in our life, things can change like that," he said with a snap of his fingers. "Any one of us very quickly could be in that kind of condition."

Caret, who endured part of last year's tour on crutches, lounged in a sporty new \$3,500 wheelchair during the discussion.

Caret said disability evacuation procedures could be incorporated into disaster simulations and new employee orientation training on campus.

A new evacuation plan is being reviewed, Burton said.

"We're thinking very broadly on this," Marota said of the plan.

She said the Accommodation Review Board wants to get SJSU up to date on equipment and procedures. University

See WALK, page 4



Photos By Verna Kirkendall / Daily Staff

ABOVE: President Caret sat in a wheelchair in the engineering building Thursday as he listened to people give reasons as to why updated emergency chairs are needed on campus. Most of the emergency chairs on campus today were state of the art in the '80s.

LEFT: President Caret pushed Lt. William Coker of UPD down a flight of stairs in an emergency chair Thursday during the Accessibility Tour held in the engineering building. These chairs make it possible to transport a disabled person down a staircase in the event of an emergency.

Alcohol screening educates students in risks of drinking

By Huong C. Pham
Daily Staff Writer

Students continuously dropped by the Pacifica room in the Student Union Thursday to receive information about alcoholism and to participate in a screening for National Alcohol Screening Day.

It was the third National Alcohol Screening Day for San Jose State University.

"Last year we had about over 100 students participating in the screening," said Margaret Tam, Prevention Education Program coordinator. "The screening is for students to assess their alcoholic behavior and its impact on their lives in terms of academics, education and health."

The event was the first-ever alcohol screening program day that was hosted by the nonprofit National Mental Illness Screening Project and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, in April 1999, according to Mental For Health, Inc.

The screening took about a minute or two to fill out the 18-

question form," said a student participant who wished to remain anonymous. The screening is confidential. "Then a clinician goes over the results. Altogether it was probably 5 minutes."

The alcohol program, modeled after the National Depression Screening Day, assists in addressing drinking behaviors, from risky drinking to alcohol dependence, by having participants take an Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test as the screening instrument.

The questionnaire consisted of questions such as how often and how much does the participant drink and has the participant ever been injured because of alcohol, the student said.

Motivated to go for extra credit, senior social work major Sejal Patel said the screening is beneficial because it's educational.

"Although it's also extra credit, a friend of mine is dealing with a drinking problem, so I went for her," Patel said. "Hopefully I can pass the information on."

See ALCOHOL, page 4

Study Abroad fair offers students options

By Sunita Vijayan
Daily Staff Writer

In conjunction with International Week, San Jose State University's International and Extended Studies program hosted a Study Abroad fair along Paseo de Cesar Chavez on Wednesday.

Kari Spencer, a Study Abroad program adviser, said the fair was a lot less extravagant compared to last semester's.

"In the fall it's a lot bigger," Spencer said. "We had 35 vendors out (in the past) while this semester there were only 10 vendors."

Spencer said the vendors represent programs from different countries all over the world.

Held during International Week every semester, she said the fair is designed to promote international education to get students to study abroad and let them know that these opportunities exist.

"A lot of them who are interested already know what countries they want to go to," she said.

Spencer said unlike the common belief that studying abroad slows stu-

dents down, if done correctly it becomes more of an asset than an inconvenience.

"If you plan and talk to an adviser early it really doesn't set you back at all," Spencer said. "You can even get credit for the classes you take."

One of the 10 programs that were showcased was the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, run by the Japanese government.

Andrew Lee, consulate general of Japan from the Japan Information Center in San Francisco, said the program is in its 17th year.

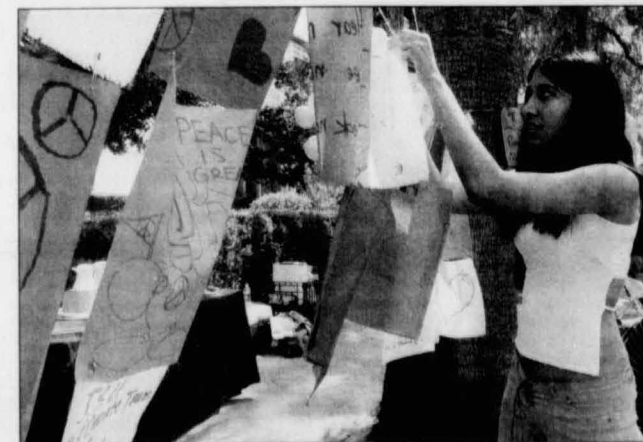
"We have about 6,200 people currently teaching all over Japan," Lee said.

The program provides university graduates the opportunity to work as teachers in local junior high and elementary schools, he said.

Cynthia Nakasui, a senior majoring in Japanese, said she thought the Study Abroad program at SJSU was outstanding.

"They have a good international program here," she said. "They're good at getting the students the countries they want."

Nakasui said the program is a great



Saori Yoneda / Daily Staff

Rina Sutaria, a senior in management information systems, hung flags for International Week in front of the Student Union Wednesday. People used the flags to express messages of peace.

way to meet new people and gain more experiences.

"It's a great thing to do when you're

graduated from college," she said. "You get to meet people from all over the world."

REVENGE THERAPY

The precious life of all animals should be respected

I witnessed my best friend giving birth last month, and I have not been the same since.

Prior to the epidural, I thought perhaps our friendship had come to an end.

Christine, who has always been one of those people who would rather die than complain, was screaming in agony, and all I could say was, "Good job, honey."

The scathing looks she shot toward me after each comment I made would have sent most people running away in tears, but I continued my support through a steady stream of trivial remarks.

After her pain was alleviated via heavy medication, she became much more tolerant of my presence, and we were able to discuss the impact of what was about to happen.

My best friend of 16 years was about to become someone's mother.

At 11 p.m., Christine was pregnant, and at 11:01 p.m., she was not.

When Adara was born, the world somehow changed. Life was created, and it was miraculous.

Watching Christine hold her baby for the first time, I saw a new part of her emerge.

Mothers are instinctual. They know what their babies need and will do everything they can to protect the life they brought into the world.

This fragile being was completely vulnerable, and her life

lay in the hands of someone who gladly took on the responsibility.

As much as we hate to admit it, we are animals, and these instincts belong to the human race as well.

The instinct an animal has to protect her young is the strongest force she possesses, and she will risk her life protecting her offspring without giving it a second thought.

The instinct to defend life, which is innate in most people, should not stop with our own.

We live in a world where humans rule, and we've learned to consider other animals a commodity.

The reality that humans eat other animals is one that disturbs me, and the idea that people ingest another animal's milk enrages me.

Exploiting animals to make superfluous snacks and milkshakes is something we should all be really proud of.

Taking advantage of something that is at an intellectual or physical disadvantage is truly courageous.

I have a hard time understanding how people can claim to be sensitive to the needs of others and in touch with the politics of the world when they participate in activities that



JUSTINE DACOSTA

promote the captivity and mass slaughter of vulnerable creatures.

Like an infant, these animals are defenseless in the world but because they are not our own, we do not feel the need to protect their lives.

I find it ironic that humans, for the most part, eat only vegetarian animals.

There is no skill in catching a cow. It is of no threat to us. We have selected our prey disregarding the fact that it is alive.

While death is something that can be explained, the origin of creation is intangible.

From a biological standpoint, conception is very straightforward. All you need is an egg, some sperm and the proper conditions.

But how does this really explain anything?

The idea of a "creator" may be a way for some to make sense of the seemingly impalpable situation, but what it comes down to is that life is inexplicable by the laws of nature.

Keeping ourselves alive is a force we have no control over. We unconsciously breathe. We know when we need to eat, drink and sleep.

We honor our lives and most of us strive to make them as productive as we can.

But we are not alone in this world.

I'd like to think that humans have reached an evolutionary stage where killing other things is not crucial to survival.

We have the ability to not only take care of our children and ourselves, but to protect those things in the world that need it.

Life is a gift from an unknown source, and we never know when it will be taken away.

Every animal has a mother who instinctually nourishes, educates and protects it.

Witnessing the birth of Adara has reinforced the idea for me that life is so much more than we could imagine.

Out there, somewhere, maybe there's a place where all the answers are kept, but until I get there I will continue enjoying the mystique of life.

While creation is unexplainable and death is a certainty, how we live our lives is something we actually have control over.

The idea of taking from the poor to give to the rich doesn't seem rational, and neither does killing the weak to feed the full.

Justine DaCosta is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor. Guest columns appear Fridays.

Viewpoint | Response to 'Out of the Shell'

This letter is in response to Tammy Krikorian's column.

I feel there are a lot of valid arguments out there, in favor of the war, that she could have chosen to respond to, as opposed to picking apart an argument where the message is limited to the size of a T-shirt. I guess the shirt must have touched a nerve and she felt the need to respond to it. Well, her column touched a nerve with me, and so I have chosen to respond to it.

The generalization written on that shirt is one I tend to agree with. But I don't feel I am "ignorant about what goes on outside my tiny little world." In fact, I am quite confident I know more about this world than her.

"I wonder if (they) actually believe that we are in Iraq to fight terrorism?"

I assume she is implying we are fighting Iraq because of oil. Well, she is right. France has been buying billions of dollars of oil. Money that is going directly into Saddam's pocket. Money that did not go to feed his people like what was intended with the Food for Oil program. Money that was paid to Russia to buy GPS jamming devices and other technologies that the United Nations said Saddam was not supposed to have. These are Security Council countries with veto power. France wanted this tyrant in power so they can continue to get cheap oil. Russia had ongoing oil deals with Iraq. They tried to pass motions in the United Nations to make those deals valid after Saddam's regime falls. Of course, Saddam is going to do what he wants. He thought France and Russia's oily greed would protect him. Now it has come down to war.

His threat to our safety is real. Saddam wouldn't hesitate to give weapons to terrorists. Just because Saddam and Osama bin Laden are from different religious groups doesn't mean they won't work together against a common enemy. This war is most definitely about terrorism, the United Nations won't fight it so we will. If there are ANY secondary benefits, that's great, but the primary reason for this war is our safety.

From November through February U.N. inspectors searched Saddam's country, and he did nothing. But within one week of 250,000 U.S. troops being deployed in Kuwait he starts making token gestures of dismantling a couple missiles. But you people try to say it's the inspectors that are doing the trick.

"The United States provided blab, blab, blab." Who cares who

we gave weapons to back in the '80s. They were attacking our enemies. It was a good idea at the time. The fact that they are now using our weapons for evil makes us MORE obligated to do something about it.

"President Bush entered Iraq and reinstated the dictator of Kuwait." Is it possible to twist that any more?

"We need to dig deeper, past what we are fed by the media [...] willing to sacrifice journalistic integrity for the almighty dollar."

Her chicken little fears about the mainstream media are because she doesn't like what is being said. They are not due to any "facts" she has discovered. All the "Bad" things she says the United States has done WERE reported in the mainstream media. There are so many different news companies that if any of them started lying it would be a huge story. They would make lots of money exposing it, on top of the fact that the exposed news company would be ruined.

"I also have the right to vote for the leader of my country (although in Bush's case, I doubt there was a real choice)."

I assume she is complaining about the election. There were six published recounts of the Florida election, and all of them had Bush with more votes. If your problem is with the electoral college, then work to change it; don't complain after the fact when things don't go your way. Bush won the election. Get over it.

It's obvious Ms. Krikorian hates what this country does, just like Cuba, Libya and Germany. I'm proud that, while people in the Bay Area might oppose it, a vast majority of this population supports our country's effort to remove an evil dictator from power. I watched the footage today of the statue of Saddam being dragged down. I saw the people destroying it and dragging the head through town. I saw people with pictures of Bush, the captions reading "man of peace" and others that said "Human shields go home!" I felt proud of this country and its leader. In the face of overwhelming opposition, Bush did the right thing.

The world of politics is a fickle one, and who knows what the future will bring. But today my team won, Ms. Krikorian, and your team lost.

Brian Sheppard senior mechanical engineering

SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily Mass will be held at the SJSU CCM Chapel located at 10th and San Carlos streets next to Robert's Bookstore. Mass times are 12:10 p.m. Monday-Friday and at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information contact Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

Associated Students Campus Recreation

The ASCR is offering a Spin class at the Event Center from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information contact Matt McNamara at 924-6217.

School of Art and Design

Student galleries art exhibitions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Studies buildings. For more information contact Bill or Nicole at 924-4330.

SJSU School of Music and Dance

Company One: A musical theater revue directed by Janie Scott, will show at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in Spartan Complex 219. Tickets are only available at the door. Students/seniors \$8, general \$12. For more information call 924-5044.

Mu Alpha Gamma

The 17th annual Magazine Day will take place April 15, with panel discussions from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the Costanoan and Almaden rooms of the Student Union followed by a luncheon in the Loma Prieta Ballroom. Keynote speaker David Talbot, founder, chairman and editor-in-chief of Salon.com, will speak on "The future of online publications" at 1 p.m. For more information contact Harvey Gotliffe at 924-3246.

RTNDA

The Radio and Television News Director's Association will have elections at 3 p.m. on April 14 in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 224.

SATURDAY

SJSU School of Music and Dance

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SUNDAY

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Associated Students Campus Recreation

ASCR is offering fitness classes at the Event Center. Classes running today: Spin, Abs Only, Turbo Kickboxing, Night Spin, Hi-Lo/Hip Hop, Body Pump, Cardio Kickboxing, Contact Kickboxing, Stretch/Flex/Relax. For more information and class times, contact Matt McNamara at 924-6217.

SJSU Student Health Center

The SJSU Student Health Center is offering the second annual Chad Okamoto scholarship. The \$500 scholarship applications are due April 21. Application forms are available in the lobby of the health building or at www.sjsu.edu/depts/student-health/index.html. Email at rvmont@email.sjsu.edu for more information.

THE THIRD EYE

Students and world benefit from public transportation

Starting this month, the Valley Transportation Authority will implement a 9 percent cut on bus and Light Rail services. In Fall 2003, as much as a 21 percent cut is being contemplated for these services.

These service cuts are not alone. They will be accompanied by a 74 percent fare increase for San Jose State University students who receive the Transit Access Program sticker for 2004. This means students will be paying more for less.

Where does that leave students like me, and many others, who largely depend on public transportation to make their way around the Bay Area?

These service cuts and fare increases will only aggravate the parking problem that has haunted SJSU for years.

VTA has cut service twice amounting to a 10 percent decrease since 2001 and has already raised the SJSU Transit Access Program fee by 15 percent starting January 2003.

Because of these inconveniences, the SJSU community will prefer driving to campus.

If this happens, an additional 3,000 students will try to find parking space around campus, according to SJSU Transportation Solutions.

The United States, especially the West Coast, has always lagged behind with public transportation.

The dependence on cars in America started with the emergence of the three big American automakers — Ford, General Motors and Chrysler — who made every effort to stunt the growth of public transport so that they could sell more cars.

When I came to the United States, earlier as a tourist, and now as a student, I was shocked to see that almost everyone here has a vehicle — from 16-year-old students to 70-year-old grandfathers.

In a family of five, there are five cars, one for every member, and each of them drives around for the smallest of errands.

We have become so used to the comforts of our private cars, we'd rather spend hours stuck in traffic on the Bay Bridge than take BART to and from work every day.

It's not surprising that public transportation authorities are compelled to resort to cutting down services and increasing fares. Fewer commuters lead to less revenue for the transport providers, resulting in budget and service cuts.

BART and Caltrain, though very reliable and consistent, are expensive to ride.

It has become a sort of a vicious circle where people don't take public transport because it's expensive, and transport authorities can't run services regularly due to lack of commuters — which eventually results in fare increases.

The Bay Area is a largely integrated area, which needs to be well connected so that people have easier access to different



FALGUNI BHUTA

places.

The mentality people adopt is: "Why should I spend so much money on a monthly pass when I can drive around for less at my own convenience?"

Which leads me to my next argument — overall, it turns out cheaper to take public transport than drive a car.

In a meeting that took place Wednesday, Associated Students announced a rise in monthly parking permits to \$35 next fall, which will add up to about \$158 per semester.

Isn't that a big amount to spend per month just on parking, apart from fuel costs, monthly car payments, maintenance and insurance? This is besides the fact that paying this fee will not guarantee you a parking spot.

Public transport has many benefits. A student's schedule is always tight and one can catch up on reading while riding public transport.

One of my professors takes the Highway 17 bus from Santa Cruz to SJSU to avoid the traffic and catch up on his reading.

Secondly, imagine how much time you will save because you don't have to worry about finding a place to park.

Thirdly, you will be getting rid of so much anxiety because you don't have to worry about the parking meter that could expire anytime.

Think about how low pollution and congestion levels will fall if we started taking public transport, making the environment much cleaner and more beautiful for all of us.

We disrespect people who drive SUVs. But with the current oil crisis, I think there will come a time when we will have to disrespect people who drive altogether.

We should take the example of Europe and Asia where most people travel by public transport or bicycles.

It's sad that Americans fly everywhere and hardly get a chance to cherish the pleasures of train travel.

Despite being a fast, reliable train service, Amtrak has limited operations around the country, except in a few areas, such as the Northeast.

We could do better by spending more money on developing public transportation than trying to kiss the feet of oil-producing countries in the Middle East.

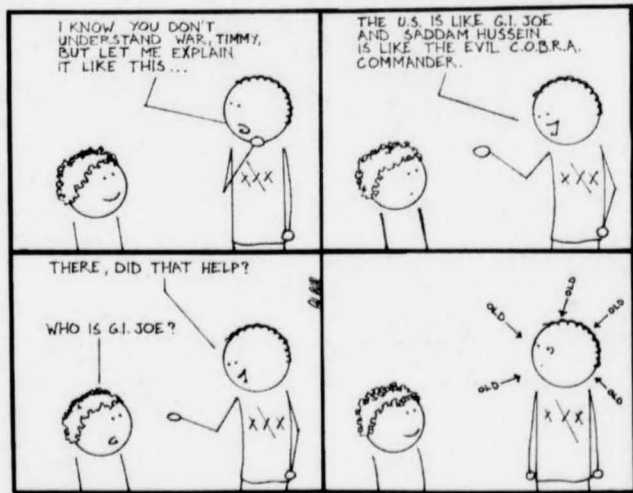
Increasing the usage of public transport would require a collective effort by each and every one of us.

Call your local public transport provider and ask for the quickest route to get to school or your workplace. They will be more than happy to help you out.

Believe me, it's affordable, hassle-free and has more future benefits than you can imagine.

Falguni Bhuta is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer. Guest columns appear Fridays.

ANOTHER DIMENTIAN | PAUL DYBDAHL



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THE SPARTAN DAILY | ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE | SAN JOSE, CA 95192 | (408) 924-3281 | SPARTANDAILY@CASA.SJSU.EDU, SDAILYADS@JMC.SJSU.EDU

NEWS ROOM 408.924.3281
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OPINION PAGE POLICY | Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

A viewpoint is the same as a letter to the editor, except it is a 400-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, label and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

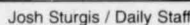
Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, or SJSU.

A semester after joining the club,

"I think ice skating is a really nice outlet," Mandella said. "It's a good recreational and physical activity for (people)."



Because the Santa Clara site does not have seating or other facilities for fans, practices will not be open to the public. However, the 49ers plan to schedule some practices at other locations around the Bay Area so fans can see the team this summer.

* Lost & Found ads are offered free as a service to the campus community.

ALCOHOL

continued from page 1

Nationwide, the screening program makes its presence in communities through hospitals, counseling centers and colleges, according to Mental for Health, Inc.

The college component will have a specific focus on the dangers of binge drinking, since binge drinking is more prevalent with college students, according to the organization.

Binge drinking is the act of drinking five or more alcoholic drinks in an hour in one sitting for males and four or more drinks for a female, according to a pamphlet created by the Prevention Education Program Center at SJSU.

"I'm a social drinker. It helps loosen me up at social events," said Daniel Magdael, a senior computer science major who admitted to having two to three alcoholic drinks a couple times a month. "Almost every college student drinks, and there are only a couple that can't keep it under control."

Those who cannot keep it under control may face negative repercussions, such as poor academic and employment performance, dependency on alcohol, deterioration of physical health, social problems, and legal problems, according to the Prevention Education Program Center.

WALK | New emergency chairs to replace current, outdated model

continued from page 1

police will be involved with annually training faculty and staff members on how to use the emergency equipment, she said.

The attempt to bring more awareness and update emergency equipment kicked into gear two years ago when a disabled student became trapped on the second story of an SJSU building during a blackout, Burton said. Nobody would evacuate him because it wasn't an emergency.

"This shouldn't happen," Burton said. "We're in charge to try to be aware of what's needed on the campus."

Not even half of the buildings on

campus have emergency evacuation chairs, he said. There is only one in the library, and it is located at the top of the fifth floor stairway, he said.

The emergency chair demonstrated during the tour is a newer and easier-to-use model than the 1980s version that is found throughout the rest of the campus. The old chair is a stiff "glorified lawn chair" that requires two people to lift both ends, Burton said.

However, if nothing else is available, the older chair, which was once state-of-the-art, looks pretty good, he said.

Caret mentioned that there wasn't an emergency chair in Tower Hall.

"There are expendable people there," Burton joked.

The newer chairs, which are only located in the Engineering building, are more compact, easier to maneuver and can be operated by one person.

The disabled person sits in the chair as another guides the chair along with handrails from behind.

"You feel like you're almost throwing the person (in the chair) over," Burton said of the initial tilt of the chair over the first step.

After the questionable first move, however, the chair clunks quite quickly, smoothly and safely down each step.

"Someone with very little or no training can be effective," Burton said of operating the chairs.

Despite being full of knowledge about

the chairs, Burton has yet to master the art of climbing into one.

"I haven't figured out how to do this gracefully yet," he joked as he crumpled into the chair.

Sgt. Timothy Villarica of the campus police also took a ride in the chair, gun belt and all.

"The ride itself was nice. The chair was not very comfortable," Villarica said. "Those things aren't really designed for gun belts."

Caret, however, apparently proved to be an efficient chair chauffeur for Lt. Coker.

"I had a very smooth ride," Coker laughed. "I have to admit that."

SARS fears increase demand for respiratory masks

VALLEY, Neb. (AP) — Nothing — not the eruption of Mount St. Helens, the anthrax threats or the Sept. 11 attacks — has spiked demand in protective respiratory masks the way the SARS scare has.

3M Co. plants in Valley and in Aberdeen, S.D., are cranking out masks around the clock, and nonstop production is being considered at the White Knight Engineered Products plant in Childersburg, Ala. Distributors to hospitals, equipment companies and retail stores nationwide say they can't keep

the masks on the shelves.

"We can't get them," said Rebecca Speights, a spokeswoman for the Medical Supplies Depot in Mobile, Ala., which ran out of masks a week ago. "The manufacturers can't make them fast enough."

Demand has risen to an all-time high since March 15, when the World Health Organization recommended masks to help stop the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome. The highly contagious disease had killed more than 100 people, most of them in

China and Hong Kong. No deaths have been reported in the United States.

The 3M plant in Valley has shifted some of its 386 workers from making insulation and respirators to making the N-95 mask, the model recommended by the WHO. Production is up 50 percent, but company policy prevents plant manager David Clauss from discussing exact numbers.

"Everyone here has rallied to squeeze out every mask we can as fast as we can," Clauss said.

IRAQ | Looting rampant

continued from page 1

There were signs of difficulties ahead in efforts at building a new society.

Two Islamic clerics were hacked to death by a mob in Najaf at one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines, witnesses said.

One of the clerics killed, Haider al-Kadiri, was a widely hated loyalist of Saddam, part of the Iraqi leader's Ministry of Religion. The other was Abdul Majid al-Khoei, a high-ranking Shiite cleric and son of one of the religion's most prominent spiritual leaders, who was persecuted by Saddam. They were killed at a meeting meant to serve as a model for reconciliation in post-Saddam Iraq. The U.S. military had flown in journalists aboard two helicopters to witness it, although they arrived after the violence.

An American plane beamed taped addresses by President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the Iraqi people. "Your nation will soon be free," Bush said.

There was looting in Baghdad and elsewhere, in the wake of the disappearance of civilian authority. One senior Pentagon official said military commanders have asked religious leaders in the capital to help calm the populace and reduce the looting. One Marine commander said he would institute a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Some Iraqis did what they could to prevent looting.

At al-Kindi hospital, medical students were sent into neighborhoods to retrieve medicine that had been taken on Wednesday. They returned with double-decker buses loaded with boxes of badly needed supplies.

In Washington, one administration official told Congress the Pentagon envisions parallel ministries run by Americans and Iraqis after the war until an interim government can be established. Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense, offered no timetable for creation of the interim government or how long U.S. troops would remain in Iraq.

After three weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Air Force Secretary James Roche told CNN: "We effectively have won the conflict. The regime is gone."

In northern Iraq, Lt. Col. Robert Waltemeyer, commander of a special forces unit, said troops would enter the city of Mosul "in a matter of hours or days."

Gen. Babakir Zebari, a Kurdish commander, said remnants of Saddam's Baath party and Iraqi military com-

manders in Mosul had offered to surrender on condition that the U.S.-led bombing stopped and they received amnesty.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said at least some of the Iraqi forces inside the city had stacked their weapons in accordance with U.S. surrender demands. Waltemeyer said the U.S. military would meet with representatives from Mosul on Friday morning in an attempt to negotiate a surrender, although he said, "I'm not here to make deals."

Kurdish forces, which have battled Saddam for years, triggered celebrations in Kirkuk when they reached the city, an ancestral home and gateway to Iraq's northern oilfields.

In a scene reminiscent of downtown Baghdad a day earlier, joyous residents toppled a statue of the Iraqi leader, then stomped it and hit it with their shoes — a serious insult in the Arab world. The letters "USA" were spraypainted on the base of the statue.

Local residents cheered the passing Kurdish forces and pelted them with roses.

To the southeast, Kurdish peshmerga forces also moved into the city of Khaneqin near the border with Iran.

The city had been under a curfew for several days. But shortly after Iranian television broadcast images of Wednesday's developments in Baghdad, residents emerged from their homes and found Iraqi soldiers and Baath party members were gone.

The advances sparked alarm in Turkey, Iraq's neighbor to the north, which fears permanent Kurdish control over Kirkuk and nearby oil reserves. The Turkish government announced it was sending military observers to the city with U.S. approval.

American troops soon moved into the city, and Secretary of State Colin Powell told The Associated Press that Kurdish forces would pull back, reducing the likelihood that Turkish forces would enter the region.

The Bush and Blair addresses were part of a new information program that will include publication of a newspaper to be circulated in southern Iraq.

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